

Volume 3, Issue 4 | July 2017

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

PARTNERING for PADDLESPORTS

ACA-China Agreement

Tips for Selecting
a Surfski

Kayak Adventure
in Taiwan

ACA Rewards
Stewardship Efforts

Instructors of the
Month - June & July



ACA Mission Statement

Founded in 1880, the ACA is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.



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Amy Ellis- State Director/Membership Coordinator
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Cover photo

Paddlers enjoy a gorgeous sunset while on the Niagara River (off the shore of Beaver Island State Park) during a Kayaking with Tina class. Photo submitted by Tina Spencer, New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Follow us on...



Meet your ACA Staff

www.americancanoe.org/staff



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

Ireland. It would be an amazing experience to kayak along the coast of West Cork.



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer

San Diego to Dana Point, California – SUP Surfing and sun!



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Coordinator

The Pacific Northwest. Mountains + Ocean all in relative proximity to each other. Perfect!



Amy Ellis
State Director/
Membership Coordinator

Kentucky! It's a beautiful state with a diverse geography, and lots of outdoor recreation opportunities. Plus, it's where I grew up and where my parents still live.

If you could only choose one vacation destination, where would you pick and why?



John Sims
Social Media Coordinator

Tahiti or some other exotic location. Beach, sand and far away from the Internet and cell phones.



Kimberly Jenkins
Paddle eMagazine Editor

Hawaii! I traveled there for work several years ago, and I fell in love with the islands!



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach Director & Grant Manager

Australia. I have wanted to go there my whole life and have gone every other place I have really wanted to, so it's still on the bucket list. Hopefully the family and I will go some day.



LeighAnn Rakovich
Insurance Coordinator

I have always wanted to go to Bora Bora, Tahiti. The island looks absolutely beautiful and I've always wanted to stay in one of those over-water private bungalows with glass floors.



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator

The Outer Banks because I've always had good and relaxing memories there.



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports Ambassador

Anywhere I can get out on the water every day.

Be sure to check out the ACA's newly re-designed website!
americancanoe.org



Table of Contents



Stewardship

- 5 Paddle Green Spotlight:
CFS Grant Awardees
- 10 Recent Paddle Green Policy Action
- 12 ACA Stewardship Initiatives

Education

- 14 Owyhee in My Rearview
- 18 June Instructor of the Month
- 19 July Instructor of the Month
- 20 Choosing a Surfski
- 23 National Paddlesports Conference
- 24 Increasing Waterway Hazards Awareness
- 25 ACA Debuts New Safety Video Series
- 27 Waterways Paddling Festival
- 28 ACA Pro School Spotlight:
Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures
- 29 Swiftwater Rescue Conference

Adaptive

- 31 Essential Eligibility Criteria
- 32 Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

News Near You

- 34 State By State
- 38 ACA Hires Social Media Coordinator

Membership

- 40 ACA Outfitter Spotlight: *Michigan Tech Outdoor Adventure Program*
- 41 Featured ACA Member Benefit
- 42 Member Photo of the Month



Competition

- 46 Good Eats by the Water
- 49 Open Canoe Slalom Nationals
- 50 Upcoming Races & Events
- 52 Interpretive FreeStyle Canoeing Championships
- 52 Canoe Saling National Championships
- 53 Collegiate Race Series National Championships

International

- 55 ACA Cultivates Outreach in China
- 58 A Sea Kayaking Adventure in Taiwan
- 60 Argentina – A Paddling Paradise
- 61 Kayaking with Iguanas in Puerto Rico
- 62 First Whitewater & Rescue Symposium
- 62 Europe Paddlesports Symposium

Paddling History

- 63 J.H. Rushton

STEWARDSHIP



Allegheny Aquatic Alliance photo



Paddle *Green* Spotlight

ACA announces stewardship grant awardees

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to sponsor the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program. This program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations that undertake stewardship projects on waterways in their area. The purpose of the program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving the nation's waterways.

The ACA is proud to be able to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's CFS Program has provided nearly \$150,000 to over 160 different stewardship initiatives since its inception. For more information, please visit www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant.

In mid-May, the ACA announced this year's CFS Grant recipients. The recipients by state are as follows:

- Alaska: Anchorage Waterways Council
- Alabama: Cahaba Riverkeeper
- Illinois: River Action
- Indiana: Paddlers 4 Conservation
- Michigan: Boardman River Clean Sweep
- New Mexico: Kayak New Mexico
- New York: Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- New York: SUNY Adirondak Adventure Sports
- Pennsylvania: Allegheny Aquatic Alliance
- Puerto Rico: Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor
- Vermont: Vermont River Conservancy
- Texas: The Colorado River Alliance
- Washington: Spokane River Forum
- Wisconsin: Harbor District Inc.

Beginning with this issue of *Paddle*, we'll highlight the work of the 2017 award recipients. To learn about three of the award recipients, please see the next four pages.

Allegheny Aquatic Alliance

The Allegheny Aquatic Alliance is a local nonprofit organization devoted to water protection. The group's mission is to restore the watersheds of Western Pennsylvania to their natural state by removing and combatting pollution, reinstating the organic environment, and educating the community of the threats to our water to empower and encourage public action for watershed preservation. One of their goals is to see the local waterways returned to their beautiful natural healthy states by minimizing the negative human impact on our water.

This year, the Allegheny Aquatic Alliance will work to restore Connoquenessing Creek – a valuable local waterway – back to its beautiful, natural state by removing the physical pollution that consumes it.

In 2012, the group formed the annual Connoquenessing Creek Cleanup Project. Tackling 10- to 20-mile sections at a time, the alliance aspires to have the entire wa-



terway cleaned while also maintaining every section annually. Their ultimate goal is to improve the water quality of Connoquenessing Creek, enabling the aquatic species that inhabit the creek to thrive and recreational activities to continue to flourish. This precious waterway has been neglected and abused. It was rated the second most polluted waterway in America in 2000.

Later this year, the alliance will hold two cleanups focusing on a 15-mile stretch starting in the Harmony Junction area and ending in Ellwood City, located through Butler, Beaver, and Lawrence counties in

Pennsylvania. The cleanups will be held August 19 and September 9.

Much planning and preparation is required for this major cleanup project. The alliance members begin the preparation process at the start of the new year annually and spend about eight months planning the project. Connoquenessing Creek is mostly an isolated waterway with high banks and limited access. Each year, the new stretch is surveyed and the property owners are researched and contacted for creek access.

Other tasks include obtaining sponsorships and financial support, organizing and holding promotional events and fundraisers, confirming 15-20 good creek access sites for the stretch, assigning volunteers to their sites, meeting with team leaders to convey needed information, obtaining equipment and supplies, locating a meeting place for volunteers the morning of the cleanup, obtaining food and beverages for volunteers, landscaping the access sites prior to the cleanup, distributing the supplies and equipment to each access site, and picking up supplies and equipment after the cleanup is over. This is an intensive process.



Furthermore, the creek contains massive items that require more time and energy to remove, such as whole riding lawnmowers, metal holding tanks ranging 50-2,500 gallons in size, large farm equipment, couches and other furniture, appliances, portable toilets, hundreds of tires of all sizes, dumpsters, building supplies, etc. Last year, they removed a 28-ft. travel trailer! This was washed into the creek from Indian Brave Campground during the 2004 Hurricane Ivan. The campground lost three trailers into the creek. One was found shortly after the hurricane but currently one is still missing.

This is an extensive, ongoing project. In five years, the Allegheny Aquatic Alliance has removed 275,125 pounds of garbage, including over 2,600 tires from this important local waterway. The group's volunteer attendance is also inspiring as they have recruited over 750 volunteers throughout the community over the six cleanups. Their success is due to their dedication to the project, support from the community, and outside grant sources.

They will use the funds from the CFS grant for garbage disposal costs. Garbage disposal is a big expense since they are removing hundreds of pounds of garbage from the creek. Each year, the cost can range anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,000 depending on the amount of garbage removed. With the 6th Annual Cleanup, they hope to remove another 60,000 pounds.

Anchorage Waterways Council

The Anchorage Waterways Council is a 501 (c)(3) that was established in 1984. Its mission is: *to promote the prevention of further environmental degradation; and the protection, restoration, and enhancement of waterways, wetlands, and associated uplands within the Municipality of Anchorage.* This is accomplished through outreach projects, youth education, volunteer water quality monitoring, addressing issues and concerns with agencies and property owners, and organizing large volunteer community events, such as our annual Creek Cleanup in May and Scoop-the-Poop at dog parks (both lakes) in April.

In 1984 Anchorage's mayor (and later governor), Tony Knowles, called for a day of cleanup for local urban creeks because of the trashed and polluted nature that was becoming ever more evident in the '70s and '80s. Many creeks were declared unsafe and warning signs were posted. Accordingly, the first creek cleanup was held that year, and it has continued annually ever since.



AWC's Annual Creek Cleanup has been a local tradition for over 30 years. It brings together corporate teams, Scouts, school groups, families, clubs, organizations, neighbors, and individuals to do something beneficial for their community. Members of the Knik Canoers and Kayakers have been participating for several years using their canoes and kayaks alongside those who waded through the creeks and along lakes on foot.

The event, besides being a necessary activity after a long winter, brings all who care about the urban creeks around Anchorage closer to the local waters both literally and figuratively.

(Continued on page 8)





tively. That connection is one of the first tenets of stewardship. It is difficult for people to get fired up, care about, and protect something that they don't see or experience firsthand. Even though Creek Cleanup is not a regular grant-funded program, AWC has always thought of it as a signature event and one that must occur regardless.

On "opening day," individuals and teams spread out over Anchorage to tackle creek and lake areas that need attention. Many corporations allow their employees time off to participate in this great event. Creek Cleanup's expenses are entirely funded by donations from various corporations, organizations, and private individuals, and the event would not happen without the hundreds of volunteers who give up several hours of their time for clean waterways. The AWC tailors the event to their funding level including a variety of ways to thank volunteers and donors.

Every May hundreds of volunteers don boots, waders and gloves, or launch off in canoes and kayaks to remove tons of trash from local creeks and lakes. These waterways, home to salmon and a multitude of

wildlife, are used extensively for kayaking, canoeing, fishing, swimming, tubing, and a variety of nature experiences. The citizens of Anchorage and tourists to our city make good use of our urban waterways, and it is our mission to keep them as clean and healthy as possible.

Initially Creek Cleanup was only one day. During the past three years it has been a multi-day event, which accommodates more people who have scheduling conflicts. This puts more pressure on the Anchorage Waterways Councils' staff, but the results are worth it. In 2017, AWC set it up for five days, May 11-15.

AWC used CFS grant funds to help offset the cost of supplies, including gloves, first aid kits, hand sanitizers, trash pickups, duct tape, rope, totes, etc. The majority of the group's trash and recycling bags are donated by ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling). In addition, the Municipality's Parks and Rec Department helps transport trash that is collected from waterways in local parks and greenbelts to the landfill, and the Municipality's Solid Waste Services allows the AWC four days of free entry to dispose of the trash at their landfill.

Boardman River Clean Sweep
[The Boardman River Clean Sweep](#) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization located near Traverse City, Michigan. For the past four years, the ACA and L.L. Bean grants have been a major source of financial support for the acquisition of specialized equipment that has allowed them to sustain and increase their mission of river stewardship and restoration.

Earlier this year, the group cleaned up [Kids Creek](#), the last and largest tributary of the Boardman River, which flows through a 100-year-old historic stand of [Norway Spruce](#) at the restored [Traverse City State Psychiatric Hospital](#) that was in operation from 1881 until it closed its doors in 1989.

"Kids Creek was littered with the usual trash and a homeless campsite, but when we inspected the surrounding woods, we found a horrible mess," said Norman R. Fred, chairman of the Boardman River Clean Sweep. "Many homeless people of Traverse City live in these woods and their small amounts of trash and litter have built up over the years to an amazing level. As far as we know, neither these woods nor the creek have been cleaned up in recent memory."

The woods are a maze of foot paths and trails and Fred said he was lost as soon as he walked into them. The group photographed and GPS marked the trash



along the creek and in the woods but had a hard time finding it again later.

The BRCS used the CFS grant money to buy a waterproof GPS camera. With assistance from a member of the homeless community as their guide, they re-photographed the locations they had previously found. Their guide led them to several more sites in the woods and on the creek. Finding the areas again was much easier with the photos and GPS coordinates that matched up so easily.

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, 17 people representing seven different organizations arrived at the meeting place (in the rain) and started to work. Four of the volunteers were young children who worked right alongside the grownups. They could get into spaces that adults could not enter. Everyone wore protective gloves and the children were not allowed to touch any of the trash except with a grabber.

With the assistance of the homeless volunteer and in only two and



a half hours, the group removed 95 42-gallon bags of trash plus a lot of large items, including a trash tote, a wheel barrow, tents, sleeping bags, tarps and boxes. As they filled the bags, the volunteers left them at strategic locations in the woods for later removal before moving on to the next site.

On their last trip out of the woods, the volunteers spotted three more sites which some went back a few times to complete. In all, the group removed 124 bags of trash in three days, with each bag weighing about 45 pounds. That's about 4,500 pounds of trash removed from the area.

The ACA grant paid for the Nikon camera, a port-a-john rental, 120 large heavy duty 3-mil trash bags, box cutters, twine, tape, color printing and heavy-duty pruning shears. Burger King donated food coupons for a post-cleanup lunch. The Traverse City Country Club donated a golf cart to use in transporting the bags out to the road. The City of Traverse removed and disposed

of the three large piles of trash bags the BRCS deposited along the surrounding roads. The BRCS also had financial support from Adams Chapter Trout Unlimited.

On the last project day, volunteers distributed trash bags to several of the homeless people camping in the woods and along the creek. They also placed a trash tote at the park across the street from the woods for the campers to use and left signs for hikers and bikers to encourage them to take out what they bring in.

“We plan to continue the momentum that the ACA helped us start and make this an annual Mother’s Day weekend event to maintain this beautiful and pristine property through which runs the largest tributary of the Boardman River,” said Fred.

We want to thank the ACA and L.L. Bean for their continuing support of our efforts to keep the Boardman River flowing clean, cold, and beautiful.



Recent *Paddle Green* Policy Action

ACA calls for establishing new national marine sanctuaries

The ACA joined with 127 other organizations to support the creation of the first two new national marine sanctuaries in 16 years to be added to America's National Marine Sanctuary System.

Mallows Bay-Potomac River



Don Shomette photo

Ship hulls have provided the structure for ecologically important habitats.

Following a public comment period last year, NOAA developed a detailed analysis for a proposed national marine sanctuary to protect Mallovs Bay-Potomac River, a maritime heritage resource area along the Potomac River, about 40 miles south of Washington, D.C.

Mallows Bay boasts a diverse collection of nearly 200 known historic shipwrecks dating back to the Civil War, as well as archaeological artifacts dating back 12,000 years. Mallovs Bay is a largely undeveloped landscape and waterscape identified as one of the most ecologically valuable in Maryland. Additionally, the structure provided by the ship remains and related infrastructure serve as habitat to populations of recreational fisheries, bald eagles, and other marine species.

Wisconsin-Lake Michigan



*Wisconsin Historical Society photo/
Tamara Thomsen*

The schooner Home is one of the oldest shipwrecks discovered in Wisconsin.

The proposed 1,075-square-mile Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary would protect 37 shipwrecks and related underwater cultural resources that possess exceptional historic, archaeological, and recreational value. The sanctuary would also enhance heritage tourism within the many coastal communities that have embraced their centuries-long maritime relationship with Lake Michigan, the Great Lakes region, and the nation.

For more information about the national marine sanctuaries, please visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov.

Bucks County Parks modifies watercraft regulations

In response to requests by the ACA and other organizations, the Department of Parks and Recreation of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, adjusted their watercraft regulations to allow paddlecraft up to 22' in length. The prior limit of 16' precluded many sea kayaks, tandems and surf skis.

[Click here](#) to read the ACA's letter to Bucks County Parks.



Green Bag initiatives

A leading concern for the ACA is marine debris that originates on land and is washed into streams and down into our great lakes, gulfs and oceans. Our Paddle Green Bags help make beach and river cleanups easier.

The ACA supported several cleanups this spring, providing Green Bags to the following events:

- Newton Creek/Lake, Collingswood, New Jersey
- Delaware Canal in Pennsylvania
- Black River Clean-Up, Lorrain, Ohio
- Delaware River at Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania



Read the ACA's recent [policy action letters](#).

Stay up to date on ACA's stewardship initiatives

Interested in the political process? Check out some of the **local and regional policy letters** the ACA has submitted on behalf of paddlers:

www.americancanoe.org/PublicPolicy



Want to help your local waterway? Watch these videos from fellow paddlers at their **Paddle Green Events**:

www.americancanoe.org/PGEvents



How much is there? Where does it come from? Help the ACA and NOAA **'Track Trash'** and clean up your local waterway in the process! Learn how to participate:

www.americancanoe.org/TrackTrash



How do the **7 Principles of Leave No Trace** apply to river corridors? Learn more at:

www.americancanoe.org/LNT

EDUCATION



Owyhee in my rearview

Story and photos by Burt Kornegay

Becky's and my five-day trip on the Owyhee River, in the arid and mountainous southeastern corner of Oregon, was the adventurous highlight of our recent month-long drive and vacation out West; but getting to the Owyhee and back had its own adventures.

The adventures started right out with non-stop storms as I drove through the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. (To cut out some of

the road miles, Becky flew out to meet me in Boise, Idaho, and I was driving the truck out and taking my canoe.) The rainstorms didn't end until I reached the town of North Platte, in Nebraska. Then, on our return to North Carolina, when driving around Birmingham, Alabama, we disappeared into a Noah-worthy deluge that brought I-459 to a rush-hour halt.

We encountered other kinds of storms too. In New Mexico, it was

dust storms. We were warned about them because large yellow signs every few miles said, "Dust Storms May Exist." There was no "may" about it. We sped up to skirt one of these ominous-looking orange clouds, but had to creep through another that swept across the highway in front of us. Two days before that, we were buffeted by an Arizona-wide windstorm that, while we were touring Petrified Forest National Park, threatened to blow us off the overlooks. This same

The tour group enters Green Dragon Canyon on southeast Oregon's Owyhee River.





Fellow canoeists ready to launch.

wind blew the opened door of my truck back into my face while I was drinking out of a thermos, sending the thermos flying and almost busting out my teeth.

The most memorable storm happened on lonely Utah Rt. 30, near Curlew Junction and Rose Ranch, which I'd taken to get a break from interstate driving. This was a bull storm. Specifically, it was a storm of around 50 black Angus bulls being herded up the highway by a cowboy dressed in a red shirt and white hat. Those bulls, well-hung every one, were not happy.

While listening to the cowboy whoop and whistle at them from his horse, I trailed along behind the herd watching the bulls jump and kick and give incredibly loud bellows, then square off to butt one another. "Okay if I ease by?" I finally yelled to the cowboy. And he shouted back, with a wave of his hat, "Just blow on through!"

I inserted my truck into the milling mass of muscle and moved ahead, and I was almost out the other side when a bull in the road turned to face me, ready to rumble. I pulled

up until we were no more than a foot apart. He assumed a bullheaded stance, head down, as if to say, "Bring it on." I couldn't back up, since bulls were behind me. So, for a couple of minutes it was a stand-off on Utah Rt. 30: Honda Ridge-line With Canoe vs. Rose Ranch Angus. The cowboy seemed to enjoy it all. Suddenly, satisfied at having brought the modern world to a halt, Angus turned and trotted off, dropping turds behind that would have made an elephant proud.

Becky sets up camp beside the river.



All this, and I haven't even begun to describe our adventures on the Owyhee. It was a raft-supported trip, with Northwest Rafting Company, five guides and 15 clients. Becky rode an oar raft; I paddled my solo canoe.

This was the fourth such Western river trip I've canoed with an outfitter – Colorado in the Grand Canyon, Middle Fork Salmon, and Rogue being the others – and it was my favorite. In part this is because, having been a guide for 30 years, I'd spread word among some of my former Slickrock Expeditions clients that Becky and I were going to take the trip, and they joined too, filling it. This made the trip a river reunion.

(Continued on page 15)



Burt Kornegay maneuvers through the river's various rapids, including Whistling Bird (left) and Dogleg (center).

And in part because three of the Slickrockers – Bobby Simpson, John Manuel, and Perry Roy – brought their own canoes. (The others were in the rafts and duckies.) Having fellow canoeists along was great. It meant I wouldn't be the only single-blader in the group for the raft guides and others to watch capsize in the rapids. (Canoeists are a rarity on brawny western rivers and they always attract a morbid kind of attention – “maybe one will crash and burn!”)

The trip was also my favorite because the Owyhee, in comparison to those other rivers, is boated by few people and it is as remote as a river can get in the 48 states. It is also second to none in the beauty of its canyons.

We canoeists chose early May for the trip because we were hoping for a flow of 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is what the Owyhee averages then. But an unusually big snowpack in the headwaters this winter gave us 3700 cfs instead.

In the Owyhee's narrow canyons, we were faced with powerful currents, big waves, whirlpools, and boat-spinning eddies. There are 13 named rapids on the stretch of the Owyhee we explored – from the put-in at Rome to the take-out at Birch Creek – but we ran many more rapids than that. At our water level, some of the unnamed ones were as challenging as the named.

Turns out we were the first canoeists that the rafting company had ever taken down the Owyhee. And the guides were somewhat nervous about open boaters being on

John Manuel enters the Montgomery Rapid.

Cathy Murphy photo





the trip. Hey, canoes swamp, canoes are tippy, canoes turn over, canoes wrap around rocks! And there *were* a couple of capsizes. But we were all experienced whitewater canoeists and we handled the rapids in style. After seeing on the first day that we could take care of ourselves, the guides relaxed.

High water is good in one way when it comes to running rapids: it opens up more than one possible line to take. So, following my cautious dictum as a canoeist – “turn big rapids into little ones” – I was able to find lines that skirted many of the maelstroms and took the biggest waves on their shoulders.

Two challenges, however, arise when it comes to downsizing a big rapid in this way: 1) In the midst of the oncoming tumult, you have to spot the dry line immediately; and 2) You have to get yourself to it before your open boat becomes a submarine. Luckily, on the Owyhee I managed to do that and keep my hair dry.

In this stretch of the Owyhee, the rapid with most “consequence” is called Montgomery. We reached Montgomery on Day 3, in the heart of Green Dragon Canyon. Montgomery comes just after a drop called Rock Trap and another called Squeeze. The rapid occurs in a bend to the right, where most of the river plunges over a ledge into a huge recirculating hydraulic.

As most of you know, whitewater boaters call such hydraulics “holes.” Montgomery’s hole was big enough to chew up and swallow a flotilla of canoes. It was a hole that you could hear roaring over the rest of that oceanic rapid – and the rest of the rapid was not quiet. It was a hole that even the mighty Colorado River in the Grand Canyon would have owned.

After scouting the rapid from an overlook and pointing out the dicey line that we would have to run, the lead guide Nick said, “It’s your choice.” Two canoeists decided

to portage and two decided to go for it. Luckily, by keeping to the right and concentrating on every stroke to drive forward, both of us “runners” skirted the hole. When I reached the bottom, however, my butt cheeks were clamped around the canoe saddle so tightly I had to manually pry them apart.

While I was powering through the rapids, Becky, as is her want, rode them in one of the big oar rafts. She likes to be in the front of the raft, where she holds onto a cambuckle strap and rides the waves standing up. Makes her feel like a cowgirl.

In addition to the boating, we camped in beautiful spots, ate gourmet food, and made hikes to the canyon rim to see the river flowing through its spectacular desert landscape.

The Owyhee is now 2500 road miles behind me, but one of these days I hope to see it up close and personal again – at 1500 cfs.

About the Author

ACA member Burt Kornegay is a former outfitter and guide, and owner of Slickrock Expeditions in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

June Instructor of the Month



Tina Spencer

Tina Spencer currently works for New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in the Niagara Region as a park educator. She provides in-park and out-reach programs to serve patrons in 16 state parks as well as local schools in her region. She also operates a seasonal nature center at Beaver Island State Park. Her work has rewarded her with many opportunities, including becoming a boater safety instructor through the NYS Marine Services Bureau and a certified interpretive guide through the National Association for Interpretation.

“My love of the outdoors and the desire to teach led me to become a kayak instructor,” said Spencer. “When I got to Gilbert Lake State Park for training, I met Ro Woodward who has been instrumental in my success. It was here where my love of the outdoors, kayaking, and teaching were pushed beyond my comfort zone. I graduated with the Level 2 Essentials of River Kayaking Certification, and I am currently an instructor trainer candidate. My overall goal is to promote safety on the water.”

Following NYS Park’s Commissioner Rose Harvey’s Strategic Goals and Priorities to increase, deepen, and improve the visitor’s experience, including recreational opportunities in NYS Parks, Spencer developed the Kayaking with Tina program that teaches Smart Start Paddling Orientation.

“The motto for my program is ‘There is no incorrect way to paddle, just a more efficient way to do it.’ We started the program with no

kayaks to loan, and my husband helping me to having a fleet of 10 kayaks, and a new helper Kelly to add to the mix,” added Spencer.

In 2015 Spencer was honored with the Huttleston Special Achievement Award. She was recognized for supporting the commissioner’s goal of deepening and improving the visitor’s experience by initiating and developing a highly successful kayaking program in the Niagara Region of NYS Parks.



We are proud to partner with Kokatat to bring you the **ACA Instructor of the Month program.**

Do you know an instructor who deserves recognition?

[Nominate them today!](#)



July Instructor of the Month

Dave Sibley



When asked how he began the road to ACA instructor certification, Dave Sibley recalled, “I was having trouble learning to roll. The instructor noticed I was left-handed, took the sea kayak paddle I was holding and changed the offset. I rolled right up! While this may not be the solution for all, I was impressed that

and instructor. And, it was clear from the start that safety should be fundamental in learning to kayak, and that instruction is an essential way to do this.”

Sibley has enjoyed more than 10 years participating in kayak training in various roles with the Wilming-

Instructors are mentored and encouraged to teach classes of their own design to take students beyond the novice training. Instructors also mentor trip leaders, so the club can offer trips on more advanced rivers. Sibley added that he lives on a lake and “we have ‘rolling barbecues’ in the summer.”



he picked up on something I needed that other teachers had missed. After whitewater training, I became a helper, and became a certified instructor two years later.”

He added, “For me, teaching is a growth experience for both student

and instructor. And, it was clear from the start that safety should be fundamental in learning to kayak, and that instruction is an essential way to do this.” Sibley has enjoyed more than 10 years participating in kayak training in various roles with the Wilming-

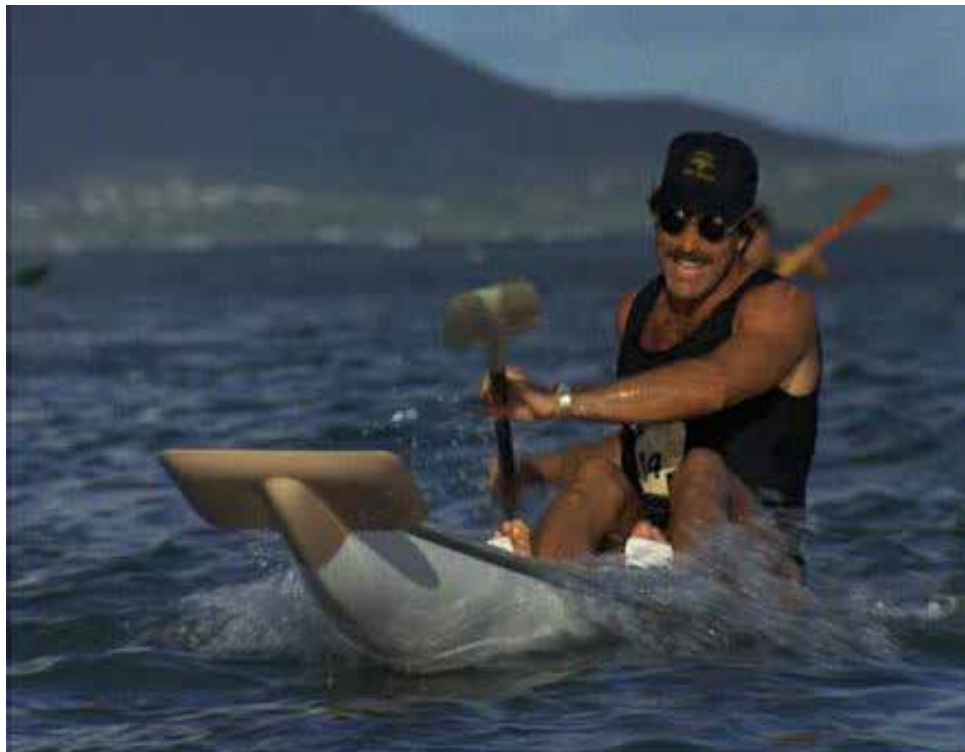
ton (Delaware) Trail Club. The club has expanded its novice programs for both recreational and whitewater, and has added components such as Helper Training, swift water rescue and intermediate/advanced clinics like “Fun with Rocks” and “How to Lead on Class 4.”

Cross-specialty learning is important Sibley. “It really helps to clear out student (and instructor) bias. I benefited from sea kayaking, Greenland techniques, and slalom. At our pool sessions, you’ll see people rolling with Greenland paddles or trying out the outfitting in their C2 slalom boat. Our rolling instruction has been hugely informed by Greenland rolling techniques,” he said.

Recreational slalom is not far away from Delaware. Sibley found this to be a great way for paddlers at any level to improve skills in low-risk settings. He said, “Of course, slalom gave rise to so many moves and techniques that are common in paddling. And it’s good as an instructor to be humbled when you get in the gates!”

Tips for choosing a surfski

Story and photos by Michèle Eray, Olympian & World SurfSki Champion



In the television series Magnum, P.I., the character Thomas Magnum was often seen on a surf ski. (This was in the days before life jacket wear was seen as prudent.)

Surfski design and manufacturing has come a very long way since the days of Magnum P.I. crossing the Channel of Bones during the Molokai Challenge event in his old-school, double-foot well, spec surfski!

The companies of today are developing lighter, stiffer, and ultimately faster surfskis. They are achieving this through innovative design, improved construction, more durable materials, and topped off with quality workmanship. This is all great for us who like to paddle!

So which is the right surfski for you?

There are a number of factors to consider when choosing your future boat:

#1 Ability level
Ability should match stability. There is no point (and no fun) in spending the majority of your paddling session re-mounting your ski. It is designed to be paddled, and too often we see paddlers choosing the fast, skinny “racing snake” over something more stable, and then not enjoy paddling that much. The irony of choosing a faster ski over a more stable one, is that you will actually go faster in the more stable ski (no

one is fast when spending the time falling out or having to take brace strokes all the time and wasting energy trying to stay upright!)

Unless you are in the top five percent of paddlers in the world, who spend upwards of 20 hours a week training (read: perfecting their balance), you should be in something more stable.

All manufacturers have a range of surfskis – entry level, intermediate, and racing. Make sure you try before you buy, and of course, be sure to try it in the conditions you will primarily paddle in (e.g., a bumpy ocean or flatwater lagoon). A ski that feels good in the flats, might just be really tippy in the ocean.

#2 Surfski construction
The construction – materials used as well as manufacturing method – of a surfski will have two important results, the weight of the ski and how rigid it will end up being.

I won’t go into too much detail, but what you need to know is that a light ski has a few advantages, and you should weigh whether the extra dollars are worth it. What makes a ski light is usually how much carbon has gone into it.

Carbon is an incredibly lightweight but strong material, giving surfskis

both lightness and rigidity. The advantages of a light ski mean it's less to push through the water. If you weigh under 130 pounds, that will have a bigger impact on your paddling speed than if you are more in the 180 and up category. Think of it as a percentage of your body weight. For the extra \$1000 or so, it might be worth dropping a few pounds of body weight rather, or not! A lighter ski is definitely easier to carry, though.

Rigidity is a big factor in boat speed. The more rigid the ski, the less energy displacement there will be (i.e., the faster you will go for the effort you put in). If you are looking for that small gain when racing, then make sure you are getting a well-made, vacuum and heat-cured



boat. If cruising the waters of your bay is what you had in mind, then that can be less of a factor.

Plastic

A few of the major brands, including Nelo, Epic and Think, all make a rotomolded plastic surfski. Although on the heavier side, these skis bring a totally different aspect to the sport.

They are more durable and can handle a few drops and knocks on rocks (they can even go down rivers with a pop-up rudder installed). And they have a great price point, meaning you won't break the bank.

The only plastic ski I have paddled is the new Nelo 510, and it is actually pretty fast, and surfs the downwind runs really well!

This helps with getting more people into the sport, as it is cost effective, and the boats are really stable, helping speed up the learning process.

#3 **Sitting position and customization**

To optimize your technique and the ability to use your whole body to power your stroke, your ski choice has to have a seated position that fits you.

For good leg drive and therefore rotation, you need to be able to move your legs freely. Having a large hump under your knees will restrict your leg movement. If the

(Continued on page 22)



Michèle Eray prepares for the start of the 2015 Women's World Surfski Championship.

ski is not adjustable (which all new skis are these days) make sure the leg length fits you.

Another important aspect is the seat bucket width. You need to be able to move for rotation, but if it is too loose, you will lose stability.

Ideally, you should fit the ski to you, and not the other way around. Worst case, make sure you can customize the ski a little, without affecting its performance, by adding foam to the seated area.

#4 Fittings As important as a solid construction is, when your steering cable snaps you will wish you had checked out all the

fittings! Good quality stainless steel, or strong manufacturer-approved string, and durable hard plastic 3D printed parts go a long way to ensure your whole ski is safe and has longevity. It's useful to have extra bungee cord attachments for storing gear, and a place to attach your safety leash. Make sure you check for these before you buy.

#5 Personal design Certain manufacturers offer you the choice of designing the exterior of your new boat. Being able to pick colours and designs of your choice is a fun element which really adds to the excitement of personalizing your own craft. Not only will it be unique, but it could add value.

#6 After-sale service and warranty Manufacturers will back their products against defects, so be sure to check out how long the warranty is valid for and what is actually covered. The higher the quality, usually the longer the warranty.

Being able to get parts or extra fittings is important; therefore, it's a good idea to go with a reputable and well-managed brand that has excellent after-sales service. Make sure there is someone local that represents the brand, allowing quick and easy access to spare parts.

I hope these tips have helped you make an informed decision before you purchase your next surfski. Ultimately, chose a ski that will bring you great joy in your paddling adventures.

About the Author
Michèle Eray has been paddling for 24 years. She was the World SurfSki Champion in 2013 and earned the silver in 2015. She's an Olympian for Canoe Sprint (Kayak in the U.S.) and a certified International Canoe Federation Level 3 Advanced Coach.

Don't miss this event!



Mark your calendar for the
[2017 National Paddlesports Conference](#)

The ACA provides a range of recreational opportunities and has been established as one of the premier standards of paddlesports safety and education. As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, the organization initiated this annual conference to target all facets of the paddlesports community. Don't miss out!

This year's conference takes place October 18-22 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser, North Carolina, and has a great deal in store for you. Offerings include exceptional educational sessions, instructor updates, navigation classes, outdoor activity opportunities, and exciting events for paddlers of all experience levels.

To learn more, please visit **www.americancanoe.org/NPC** today!

Taking action to increase awareness about *WATER HAZARDS*

By from Lenore Sobota, ACA - Illinois State Director

Rip currents and other dangerous currents aren't just problems for swimmers; they can create hazards for paddlers who capsize, especially if they get separated from their boats.

Many communities around the Great Lakes are taking steps to increase awareness about the hazards and to have rescue equipment available – not only to save the per-

Unfortunately, sometimes action isn't taken until after one or more fatal accidents occur.

Susan Och, Leland, Michigan township supervisor, said, "Grief is a combination of two emotions: sad and mad."

People are sad that the accident happened and mad that something wasn't done to prevent it.

lockers with life jackets, life rings and rescue boards. The stations with throw bags included instructions on how to use them and a location to give when calling 9-1-1.

Och noted that the presence of a life ring also reminds people of the presence of dangers.

They also laminated cardstock with safety information such as "What does drowning look like?" and attached them to pieces of lumber.

Similar actions have been taken in other communities.

After a fatal accident in 2012 in Lake Michigan in Port Washington, Wisconsin, a waterfront safety advisory committee was created.

"These are things that have to happen now," said Tom Mlada, Port Washington's mayor. "Don't wait for that 'call to action.'"

Among steps taken were installation of warning signs and life ring holders, creation of life jacket stations with loaner life jackets and the addition of ladders to breakwaters to help people get out of the water. A community education program also was launched. Aimed at schools, its intent was to teach people to respect, not fear, the water.

"There's always risk in life, but together we can manage that risk," said Mlada.



Susan Och, Leland, Mich., township supervisor, talks about setting up a basic life ring station.

son in trouble but also to prevent would-be rescuers from becoming victims themselves.

These efforts were discussed at a two-day water safety conference in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, organized by the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project.

She recommended, "Turn negative energy into action. Give people constructive things to do."

The first step was to inventory dangers, from currents to drop-offs to piers.

In her community's case, they also set up beach safety kits that included such things as basic life rings or throw bags, and more elaborate



Susan Och, Leland, Mich., township supervisor, displays equipment from her community's beach safety kits.

Similarly, Duluth, Minnesota, responded after a fatality in 2003 by instituting a system of beach warning flags. They also created a website with real-time data on water temperature, rip current risk and bacteria levels. An electronic sign positioned on the road to the beach is activated with a message saying "High risk of rip currents" when needed.

The community also set up beach safety stations with throw rings and a throw bag with floating line.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin, started its safety efforts after two drownings in 2008.

Because many beach users are from out of town, the city's efforts includ-

ed "911 Emergency Location" signs along the beach with a letter and number so people calling for help can give a more specific location to emergency responders.

Another speaker, Scott Ruddle of Grand Beach, Ontario, said swim areas that are not supervised by lifeguards should have emergency contact information along with the address of the location. Also recommended are a reach pole and a ring buoy with 25 feet of line, he said.

The water safety conference also included a demonstration of the EMILY drone or Emergency Integrated Lifesaving Lanyard, a remote-controlled watercraft, about four-feet long, that can be sent out to a swimmer in distress, giving them something to hang onto while rescuers get to them, or bringing a tow line that on-shore rescuers can use to pull the person to safety.

For more information, check out www.glsrp.org and www.parkpoint-beach.org.


ACA launches new paddlesports safety video series

The ACA is proud to release the first videos in the ACA Kayak Touring Instructional series!

With a total of 15 videos planned this summer, the series is featured on the ACA's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/paddlesport/.

[The first video](#) presents the top five kayaking tips.





Find a job you love

www.americancanoe.org/employment

The ACA Career Center Website is now *better* than ever!

Use it as a one-stop shop to find awesome jobs all over the country at places like REI, the U.S. National Whitewater Center, and more.

You can even sign up for email notifications so you know when new jobs get posted to the site!

Visit www.americancanoe.org/employment to find your dream job in the outdoor recreation industry today.

2017 WATERWAYS PADDLING FESTIVAL

Paddling, arts and culture on PEI's south shore

The first [Waterways PEI Paddling Festival](#), presented by Transform Events & Consulting and the Central Coastal Tourism Partnership, took place June 9-11, 2017, in Borden-Carleton and Victoria-by-the-Sea on Prince Edward Island. With plans to become an annual event, the Waterways Paddling Festival is an outdoor recreation and music festival celebrating paddling and the Mi'kmaq First Nation.

Thomas, culture and tourism coordinator with Lennox Island First Nation says, "An event like Waterways Paddling Festival is an ideal opportunity for the people of Lennox Island First Nation to share experiences that are true to the Mi'kmaq culture and develop meaningful partnerships with the community."

The Waterways Paddling Festival grounds in Victoria-by-the-Sea provided fami-



Featuring three days of paddling adventures, workshops, entertainment, and showcasing delicious locally produced food, the festival offered something for every paddler. For those looking for a challenge there was a 17 km paddle between the villages of Borden-Carleton and Victoria-by-the-Sea. For beginners or those looking to improve their paddling skills, there were paddling workshops led by a local instructor.

The festival also featured Mi'kmaq performers, storytellers and other local and regional musicians. Jamie

ly-friendly activities related to paddling and its connection to Mi'kmaq culture, including canoe/kayak and paddle making demonstrations, Mi'kmaq cultural displays, crafts and local artisanal products.

Waterways Paddling Festival is an initiative of the Central Coastal Tourism Partnership and Transform Events & Consulting in partnership with Lennox Island First Nation, The Village of Victoria-by-the-Sea and The Town of Borden-Carleton. The festival is funded by the the Government of Canada and the Province of Prince Edward Island.

ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

[Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures](#) located in Westport, Massachusetts, provides comprehensive sea & surf kayaking instruction & assessments, paddle board instruction, guided tours, environmental education & team building programs.



They welcome paddlers of all levels with courses are designed to develop on-water paddling skills and judgment.

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures also offers kayak & paddleboard rentals & sales, and unique adventure trips along coastal Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the Caribbean.



ACA Pro Schools are some of the best organizations across the country to find top quality ACA-certified instruction. Plus, current ACA members receive discounts on certain Pro School instructional programs.

Please visit www.americancanoe.org/ProSchools to find a Pro School near you.



Swiftwater Rescue Conference

October 13-15, 2017

Location: Pacific Northwest - Mill City, Oregon

Venue: Santiam River, Oregon

Registration will be available online in June 2017

Limited to 100 spaces

Cost: \$225

www.americancanoe.org/SWR_Conference

Sponsors

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2017 ACA SWR Conference, please contact ACA SWR Committee Chair, Sam Fowlkes at whitewatersam@gmail.com.

Presenters

If you are interested in presenting at the 2017 ACA SWR Conference, please contact SWR Conference Chair: Aaron Peeler at apeeler@usnwc.org.

Additional Highlights

- Challenging on-water sessions for paddlers of all experience levels
- Learn from a list of who's who in swiftwater rescue
- Educational sessions for fire and rescue personnel
- High quality land and water educational sessions
- ACA Safety & Rescue Instructor Updates



ADAPTIVE



Learn about the ACA's *Essential Eligibility Criteria*

ACA courses are open to all individuals who acknowledge the ability to perform the following essential eligibility criteria:

1. Breathe independently (i.e., not require medical devices to sustain breathing).
2. Independently maintain sealed airway passages while under water.
3. Independently hold head upright without neck / head support.
4. Manage personal care independently or with assistance of a companion.
5. Manage personal mobility independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance.
6. Follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with assistance of a companion.
7. Independently turn from face-down to face-up and remain floating face up while wearing a properly fitted life jacket*.
8. Get in/out or on/off a paddlecraft independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*.
9. Independently get out and from under a capsized paddlecraft*.
10. Reenter or remount the paddlecraft following deep water capsize independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*.
11. Maintain a safe body position while attempting skills, activities and rescues listed in the appropriate Course Outline, and have the ability to recognize and identify to others when such efforts would be unsafe given your personal situation*.

* To participate in adaptive programs, participants must acknowledge only the first six EEC listed above. Entry-level adaptive programs will involve teaching and practicing EEC #7-11.

If you have any questions about the ACA's essential eligibility criteria, please contact the [Safety Education & Instruction Department](#).



Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

July 28-31

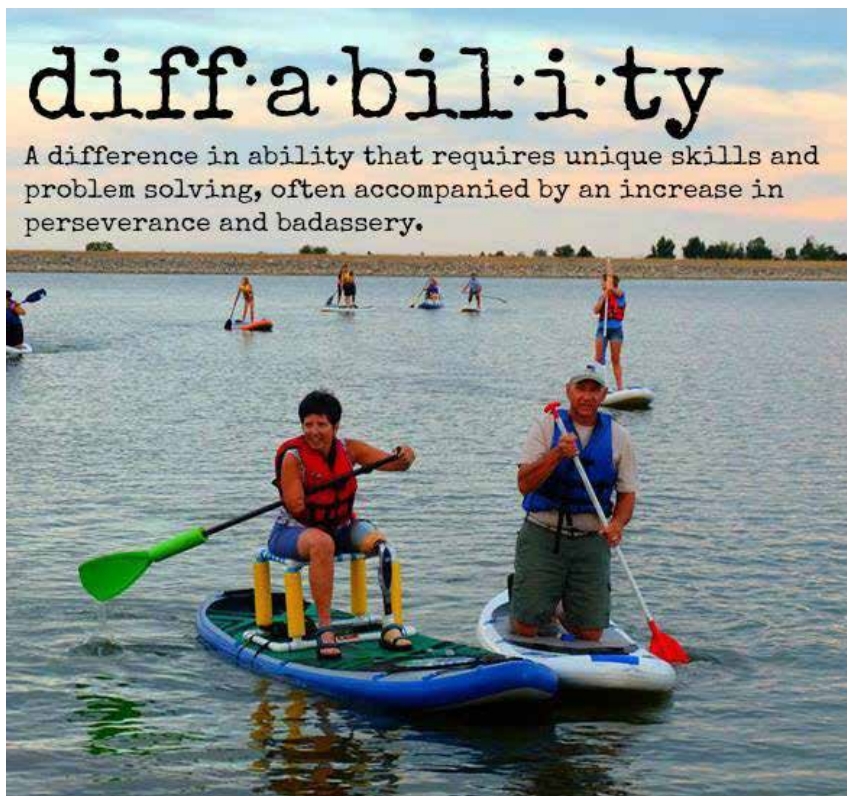
Greenville, South Carolina

[Click here for more information](#)

September 21-24

Big Bay, Michigan

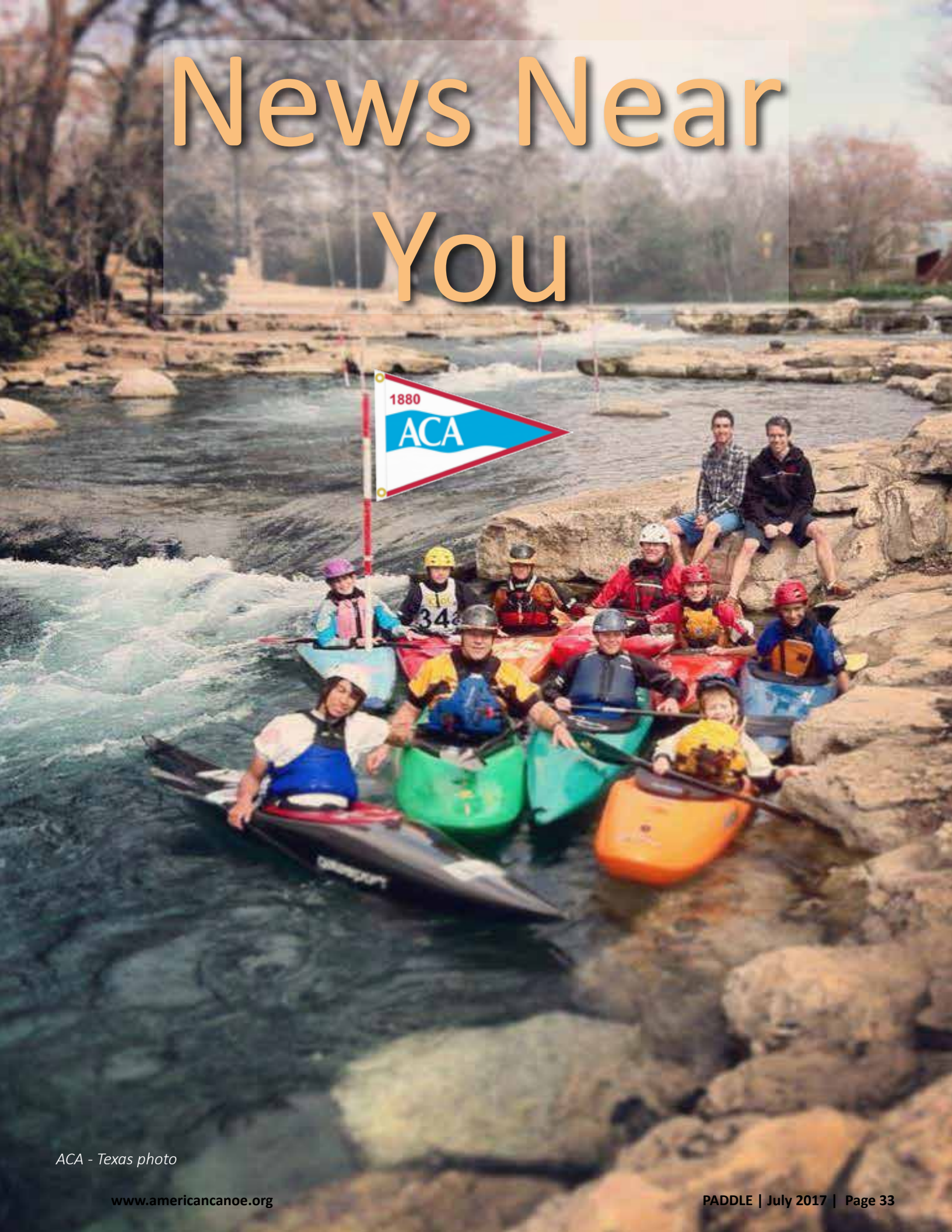
[Click here for more information](#)



Visit the [Adaptive Event Calendar](#) to stay up-to-date on APWs happening near you!



News Near You



ACA - Texas photo

State by State

Alabama

As the summer paddling season gets underway, start checking your calendars for local paddlesports events! There is always something happening nearby, keep in mind some of it may not be an awesome freestyle contest or slalom race. I would love to see more people attend the cleanup days, water education days, etc. Learn about your local scene and get involved. The rivers, lakes, oceans are the most precious resources we have. Without continued growth and active people we could see a decline in our already rapidly disappearing access to them.

Hope to SYOTR!

In other Alabama news...Blount County, the Friends of the Locust Fork River, working with local Probate Judge Chris Green and local landowner Pat King, have gained approval to move forward with a grant to provide a permanent easement and overlook of the river utilizing an old bridge at Hwy. 79/231.

Plans are to develop river access and provide conservation information to the public. The Birmingham Canoe Club is conducting Beginner, Intermediate and Level 3 & 4 Rescue courses that started in May and run through August. We also opened our paddling season with a joint Birmingham Canoe Club and Huntsville Canoe Club trip to the Nantahala for Spring Fling.

Chris Anderson, AlStateDirector@americancanoe.net

*Chuck Neese poses on the Coosa River in Wetumpka, Alabama.
Rain Chaser Photography photo/Chris Anderson*





Our first steps are integrating the ACA training elements with Boy Scout aquatics merit badges and high adventure programs. Following an introduction at the Denver Scout Show "All things Scouting," several ACA members joined Sea Scout Ship 324, skippered by James T Thomas. Bruce Kimmick, Denver Area Council's aquatics chair, sponsored ACA's participation in the Scout Show and endorsed active membership in Ship 324.

A few years ago, the Denver Area Council answered the need to provide qualified instructors for the White-water and Kayaking merit badges by recruiting Travis Horchard and the staff of River Runners in Buena Vista, Colorado. The program is growing, and every available weekend for Boy Scout merit badge training is full each season.



Pam Cortney, ACA Canoeing Instructor, and Bruce Kimmick, Denver Area Boy Scout Council aquatics director, at the Denver Area Council Boy Scout show, "All Things Scouting."

River Runners has invited Colorado ACA to join them for a day to see their operation. Partnering at all levels is providing Denver Area Boy Scouts with more options to explore canoeing, kayaking, Stand Up Paddleboard plus trip planning and safety education for Scout leaders. This is a win-win for all. Thanks ACA for helping our youth in Scouting.

Theresa Zook, CoStateDirector@americancanoe.net

(Continued on page 36)

California

California celebrated National Safe Boating week this year through an ACA-supported event in San Diego. Thanks to the many volunteers who successfully promoted safe paddling.

It is a good time of year for paddlesports. On the north coast, rock-gardening and big ocean conditions abound, while SUP is becoming a 'thing' in Southern California ocean and lake communities. The rivers are raging from the big Sierra Snowpack. Stay safe out there and practice your rescue skills!

Finally, California's legislature is also looking at ways to strengthen and protect its existing Wild and Scenic rivers. Woot!

Alex Morris, CaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Colorado

Submitted by Bruce Kimmick, Denver Area Council Aquatics Director

A new paddling relationship between ACA and the Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts is moving forward rapidly. Injecting Boy Scout skills training in canoeing and kayaking with ACA's expertise and resources will enhance Scouts' paddling experiences and encourage them to become lifelong water and river enthusiasts.

Florida

The state's second Calusa Palooza was a huge success. This ACA-sanctioned race features a 4- and 8-mile race for canoe, kayak, and SUP. In addition, the race offers a free 1-mile Calusa Kids race for youth. During the summer of 2016, the ACA and USCG sponsored a paddling workshop for at-risk youth. The youth put their new

paddling skills to the test and participated in Calusa Palooza, with many of the youth winning medals in their age categories!



Several Florida ACA members participated in the Boater Advisory Council's Non-Motorized Boating Working Group. After a year and a half of work, facilitated by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, the working group has finalized its report to the Boater Advisory Council. The final report will soon be published at myfwc.com/boating/advisory-council/nmbwg/.

The FL ACA supports all paddlers to continue to develop safety and rescue skills. You never know when you will come upon someone in need while on the water. Take advantage of ACA trainings and safety/rescue classes.

Tommy Thompson, FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net



A paddler enjoys the scenery along Illinois' Fox River

Illinois

Work is underway to get the Fox River in Illinois designated as a National Water Trail through a program administered by the National Park Service. As part of this process, volunteers are being sought to verify the entry/exit points as well as available amenities, such as potable water, toilets, parking conditions, etc. Anyone interested in helping should contact volunteer coordinator Greg Taylor at gregtaylor408@gmail.com.

Volunteers will be asked to paddle a section of the river and fill out a survey of about 14 check box questions on an "access site" form and seven on the "segment description." The organizers are mapping the river now and setting up sections. When that process is complete, those who have expressed an interest in volunteering will be contacted to choose a section and be given more details.

The Fox travels 116 miles from the Wisconsin border to where it joins the Illinois River at Ottawa. Taylor said, "A fair amount of this project is riding on the info gathered on these sections by volunteer paddlers."

Lenore Sobota, ILStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Louisiana

May 21 saw some 130 people participate in the [Bayou Vermilion Festival and Boat Parade](#) in Lafayette, Louisiana. The event was put together by Vermilionville, a "living history" museum and folklife park which is currently celebrating its sixth year of promoting the Vermilion River as both a cultural resource and recreational outlet. In cultural terms, Lafayette and the surrounding countryside is a bastion of Cajun and Creole

traditions, including the living languages of Louisiana French that are still spoken, along with Cajun music and zydeco, distinctive regional cuisine, and more.

Erin Segura, director of communication for the Bayou Vermilion District, explained that the clay-colored waters that flow through what was once the Attakapas tribal region of the Louisiana are now littered with anywhere from 150-200 tires, swings and bicycles, as well as the occasional washing machine. The Boat Parade is one component in an on-going community effort to prevent the accumulation of trash and litter.

The parade is celebratory, too. Residents and out-of-town visitors alike made various stops along the Vermilion to observe art exhibits, listen to music by bands such as the Huval Fuselier Trio and Bonsoir Catin, and to participate in yoga classes.

“This is our way of life,” Sara Sharp, a paddling participant, said between bites of chicken and sausage jambalaya from her “Ragin’ Cajun”-themed boat. “[Our ancestors] valued hunting and fishing and living off the land, so we want to continue that.”



Buddy Delahoussaye photo

After years of paddling along the Vermilion river as a child, Sharp said she enjoys the camaraderie of the boat parade.

“I think it’s fun to be part of the community that cares about the future of the national resources that we have,” she added.

From managing riverside cleanups, to working with Louisiana’s governor, John Bel Edwards, to monitoring river levels and water quality, the Bayou Vermilion District has been host to multiple educational and environmental advocacy and awareness programs since its beginnings in 1984.

The organization also maintains the Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park as a way to preserve the local Acadian, Native American and Creole cultures that contribute so significantly to Lafayette’s history.

Ben Sandmel, LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net



North Carolina

The ACA - North Carolina Executive Council rallied behind the [Ready, Set, Wear It! Campaign](#) to promote the wearing of life jackets. We have all kept busy during the busy paddling months of April and May, and it’s a pleasure to see all the new paddlers joining our community and the experienced paddlers helping to mentor others and continue hosting events throughout North Carolina.

ACA - North Carolina is in a period of transition, as our current state director, Kyle, has relocated to Seattle, but our executive council will continue to charge on. Looking forward, we are excited to host a table at Carolina Canoe Club’s Week of Rivers event in July.

If you’re interested in joining our executive council, please email ncstatedirector@americancanoe.net.

(Continued on page 38)



Jeff Macklin photo

Pennsylvania

Southwestern Pennsylvania has been blessed with rain, which equals healthy flows for our whitewater rivers. Kayakers are paddling the rendezvous and festivals celebrating the releases and watersheds. Rafting companies have trained new staff and are showing guests memorable river trips.

Central Pennsylvania is holding its second [Sunrise Sunset Susquehanna Paddle & Play Event](#) selected as a Toyota SPLASH event, which includes an 11-mile environmental awareness paddle on July 22. This event is open to all paddlers. Water quality monitoring and volunteers are focused on environmental stewardship issues affecting the state.

Pennsylvania is dedicated to taking care of our watersheds for drinkable, fishable, swimmable and recreational opportunities. Come Paddle PA.

Steve Barber, PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Texas

Texas Parks and Wildlife boasts 73 paddling trails. Trails cover inland lakes, rivers, and the gulf coast. Nature is at its best when explored by paddling. More information on Texas Paddling Trails can be found at tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/.

The [Bambu Bash](#) was held on June 3 at the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area. The one-day event featured a 10K SUP race, a 5K fun race, and a Derby. The stormy skies did not keep these paddlers down!

The 55th Annual [Texas Water Safari](#) was held June 10. Dubbed "The World's Toughest Canoe Race," the Texas Water Safari is actually comprised of several events, including an informational seminar, two short races (one of which can be considered a preliminary race) and, of course, the Safari itself – the 260-mile race to Seadrift from the headwaters of the San Marcos River.



For those who weren't not quite ready to endure the world's toughest canoe race, the Junior Texas Water Safari will be held in September. This race is a mere 16 miles. For more information, please visit www.texaswatersafari.org/.

Jan Malone, TXStateDirector@americancanoe.net

New social media coordinator plans to grow ACA's online presence

In May, John Sims joined the ACA staff as the organization's new social media coordinator. John was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia, area. He loves working with area businesses, events and organizations on branding and graphic design projects.

John's company, hyperbole, is helping the ACA with their social media and online branding, and he's eager to learn everything he can about all the awesome paddlesports opportunities available! His goal is to continue to grow the ACA's following across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube with interesting, engaging paddlesports content. As a new paddler, he looks forward to attending more staff meetings and getting out on the water.



MEMBERSHIP



ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Spotlight



Michigan Tech Outdoor Adventure Program

The [Outdoor Adventure Program](#) (OAP) is part of Michigan Technological University, which is located in Houghton on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. As a prime location for outdoor adventures, such as kayaking, canoeing, backpacking, and climbing, the OAP strives to get students, faculty, staff, and community members outside and active!

The OAP helps connect students to the outdoors through guided trips, leadership training, information sessions, and equipment rental, as well as by working closely with student organizations to help advertise and program events. The program has been busy working hard to bring students excellent outdoor opportunities.



The OAP was created in 2006 with support from Alumni Charles ('36) and Patricia Nelson and the idea that Michigan Tech can provide students with great outdoor experiences. With a grand vision and humble beginnings in the lower level of the Memorial Union Building, the OAP moved to its new location in 2010.

What started as a result of the need to provide students with the means to get outside and take advantage of the great outdoors has turned into one of the best reasons outside of academics to come to Michigan Tech. The program has grown tremendously due to the support of administration, the use of services by the students, and the grassroots efforts to provide low cost equipment rentals and trips to all students.

**Find an ACA outfitter
near you
using the convenient
[search tool](#) on our website!**

ACA Member Benefit

Through our partnership with Rapid Media, we're pleased to provide our members exclusive and free access to the latest issues of [Adventure Kayak](#), [Canoeroots](#), [Kayak Angler](#), and [Rapid](#) magazines.



After viewing the free spring issues, you can subscribe to these magazines at a special discounted rate and start receiving them with the next issue. [Sign up in the ACA eStore.](#)



WE PADDLE. WE CARE.™

www.americancanoe.org/Discounts

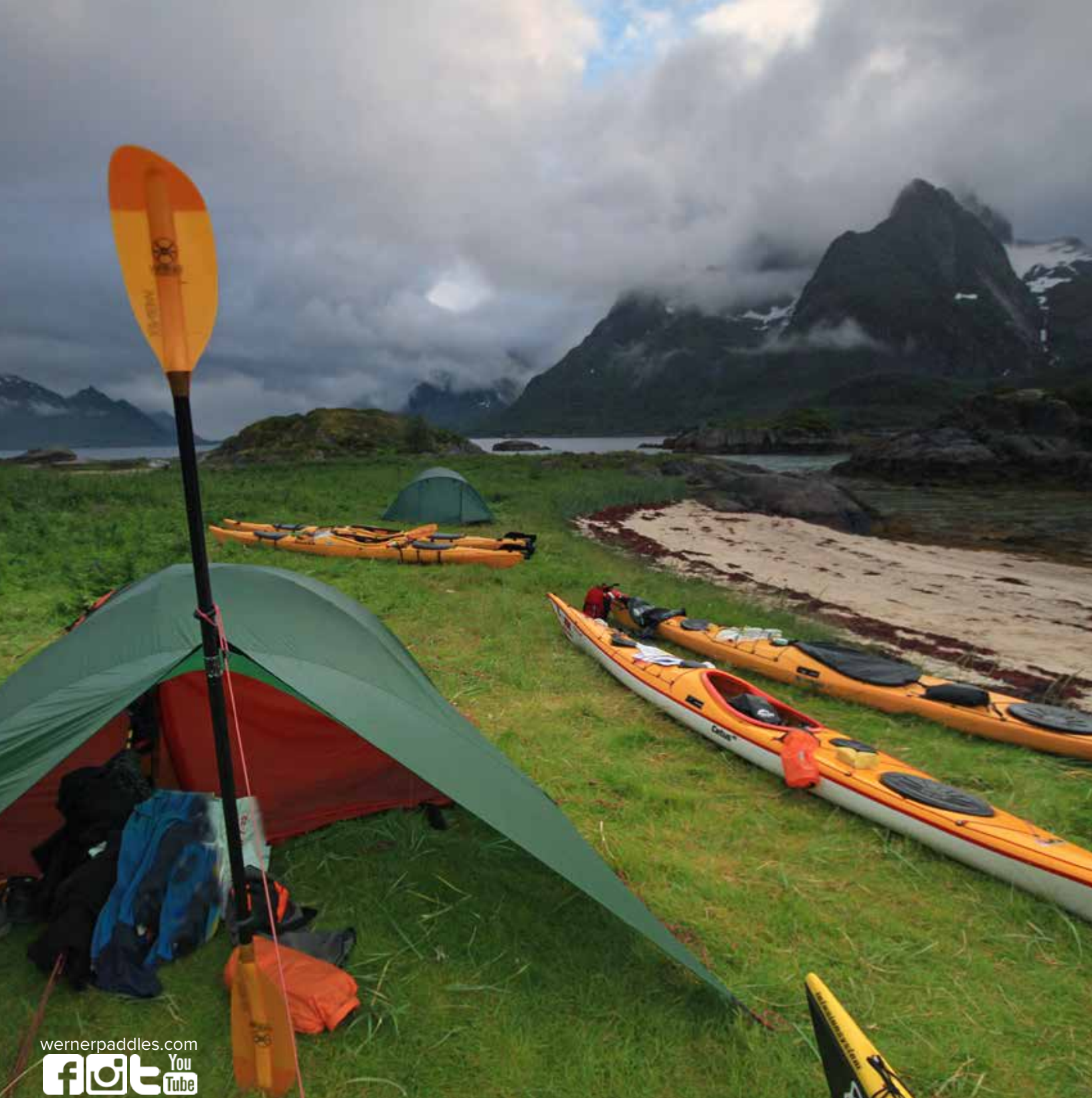
Member Photo *of the* Month

Using grant funding from the U.S. Coast Guard, ACA member Roger Schumann recently taught a SUP course in California.



Send us your photos!!

We'd like to showcase your outdoor adventures. Please send photos (along with a brief description) to ACA Paddle eMagazine Editor Kimberly Jenkins at kjenkins@americancanoe.org for a chance to be featured.



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CANOE & KAYAK

COMPETITION



Good eats by the water

By Tracy Hines, USACK Athlete

I wanted to take a bit of time to write about the nutritional habits of the whitewater athlete. Really, this is just a fancy way of telling everyone what I eat when I train and race. People often consume a wide variety of foods when paddling. Some people eat granola; others eat beef jerky. Not to offend any of my vegan friends, but I have always loved a good steak – rare, straight off the grill. Because it is a little difficult to keep a steak in my kayak with me I typically eat one after I get off the river.

One of the fabulous things about most of the places that I have been training over the past many years is that many of them have a restaurant right next to the whitewater course. Many times, those who paddle whitewater do not always know about the cuisine that the whitewater facilities have available. This is why I have created Bama's Top 10 List of my top choices for cuisine from whitewater training centers I have visited around the world.

Before hitting the water at New Zealand's Okere Falls, athlete Tracy Hines recommends a visit to the Okere Falls Store for breakfast.





Bama's Top 10:

1. The Chuard Boeuf at the Iyago restaurant at the Stade du Yves in Pau, France. This is a combination of two steaks one hot and one cold. A small portion of salami type meat is also included and fried up nicely. At the end of the dinner, one receives a portion of hazelnut cream with a cappuccino. This is delivered by a stunning waiter named John. (Please note having one's food delivered by a nice-looking waiter makes a superb end to a day of training.)

2. Barbeque chicken wings dipped in Jack Daniels® sauce. These can be found at the Loindice restaurant in Prague. When I first got these, I was a bit surprised. One often considers wings to be distinctly an American creation. Jack Daniels sauce was not something I expected to find in Prague. I must state with certainty that the Czechs make some tasty wings. Wings washed down with lemonade is a great end to a day spent practicing one's paddling technique.



3. Sheep cheese gnocchi. This dish can be found at the whitewater center located in the small village in Cunovo, Slovakia. Sheep cheese gnocchi is a unique regional food. It is a bit like macaroni and cheese with flair. Sheep cheese has a distinct flavor that is brought out by the pasty gnocchi noodle. Once again, as with the marvelous dish in France, a delightful gentleman who was the head chef and manager of the restaurant served me this dish. This posh edition to the presentation of all of the meals served in Cunovo helped my sprits recover from the daily workouts on the course. In fact, I enjoyed both the restaurant and the whitewater so much that I extended my stay.



4. Nothing tops Spanish coffee. Seu de La Urgell has superb coffee. I must state that this coffee may have an addictive property. I have returned to Sau to train at the whitewater stadium four times now. Each time my coffee intake increases. Paddling in this location requires a person to have a little more gas in the tank. The water features are like a spicy salsa dancer. One must have a little added alertness.



5. The Okere Falls Store breakfast burrito is da bomb. This fabulous taste sensation could only be created down under in the land of the Kiwis. Organic sausage, eggs and sprouts are all key ingredients. A flat white (what the New Zealanders call coffee with milk) to top it off and boom! Enough energy for a day of laps on the Katunia.
6. Nic's stand at the Vector Wero Whitewater Park in Auckland, New Zealand, is home of the infamous mince pie. A pie and a big ol' cup of kiwi joe helps fire you up before some laps on the channel.
7. Big Truck Tacos in Oklahoma City. While 23rd Street is a few miles away from the new whitewater center, the Big Truck burrito is worth the trip. With the choice of grilled chicken, grilled beef, or green chili pork, along with refried beans, rice, cheese blend, grilled onions and poblano peppers, this burrito hits the spot!

(Continued on page 48)



8. The sweet potato fries at the River's Edge at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, in Charlotte, N.C.
9. The Black Widow coffee at Mountain Perks in Bryson City, N.C. This keeps a person's craving for Spanish coffee reduced enough to make it until the next visit. The Black Widow coffee is potent yet smooth. A small addition of an espresso shot has gotten me through some blustery days on the river.
10. The Tail of the Dragon Burger at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Bryson City, N.C. Mark Zwicks – one of my favorite whitewater center waiters works at the NOC – is a legend. The rapid Zwicks back ender on the Green Narrows was named for Mark. As I sit and wait for the water to fill the stream bed, Mark and I typically catch up. I then stand up let the burger fall to my feet and I am off to train in my boat.



As I have read in many publications over the years, good nutrition is an important factor in athlete performance. I cannot dispute this fact. What I can state with certainty is that good nutrition is best received by me when it is delivered by a good-looking waiter and is served riverside.

The Čunovo Water Sports Centre offers an artificial whitewater slalom course in Slovakia, on an island in the Danube River. It is at this center that Hines enjoys the regional favorite, sheep cheese gnocchi.



ACA updates High Performance Plan

The ACA is in the process of updating the 2018 High Performance Plan (HPP) for the Olympic sports of Slalom and Sprint.



As per the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), this plan is designed specifically for the elite athletes currently competing at an international level in slalom and sprint. The HPP also outlines the athlete development program leading up to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The ACA encourages paddlesport coaches, athletes, officials and volunteers to contribute to and provide guidance and feedback on the HPP.

Join the discussion at www.americancanoe.org/HPP.

Open Canoe Slalom Nationals & North American Championships

July 7-9, 2017

Valleyfield, Quebec | Saint-Charles River



The North American Championships are organized annually. It welcomes participants from various experiences of all ages from all over North America.

For more information, please visit noram2017.com.

Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming races...
(click race name for more info)

July 13-14	<u>Big Ole SUP-Athon</u> Alexandria, Minnesota
July 15	<u>Manhattan Kayak Circumnavigation</u> Manhattan, New York
July 15	<u>The Great Chickasawhay Race</u> Waynesboro, Mississippi
July 22	<u>Catgut Paddle</u> La Crosse, Wisconsin
July 22	<u>K-2 Mix Race</u> Sloatsburg, New York
August 6	<u>Race the State</u> Newport, Rhode Island
August 19-20	<u>Midwest Freestyle Championships</u> Wausau, Wisconsin
August 27	<u>Toms River Paddling Race</u> Toms River, New Jersey
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	<u>Canoe Sailing National Championships</u> Lake Sebago, New York

Make your events *easier* with online waivers!



If you are an event organizer and interested in using our online waivers as part of your online registration process, please email the [Insurance Coordinator](#) for more details.

Interpretive FreeStyle Canoeing Championships

September 8-10, 2017
Camp Butler | Peninsula, Ohio



FreeStyle Canoeing is the "art and science" of quiet water paddling. It emphasizes smooth, efficient flatwater paddling and precision boat control. FreeStyle can be applied to all canoeing situations.

FreeStyle paddling requires no special equipment other than a boat, a paddle, a life jacket, and, in most cases, a kneeling pad.

For more information, please visit
www.americancanoe.org/FreeStyle_Canoeing.

Canoe Sailing National Championships

September 30-October 1, 2017
ACA Camp | Lake Sebago, New York



This traditional style of sailing appeals to canoe sailors of all kinds who enjoy the simplicity and charm. The novelty of canoe sailing provides a unique challenge!

For more information, please visit
www.americancanoe.org/Canoe_Sailing.

Collegiate Race Series National Championships

Fall 2017



The Colligate Race Series National Championships is the premier event for colleges and universities from across the country to compete.

The competition offers individual as well as team races in SUP, kayak and both solo and tandem canoes.

Whether you have an experienced paddling program or one that is just starting up, attendance at the National Championships will provide camaraderie, networking, and, of course, all the fun associated with racing!

More importantly, after experiencing the fun and excitement of paddlesports, students will be able to carry those skills and enthusiasm past their collegiate years and develop it into a family and lifetime activity.



For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org/Collegiate Nationals](http://www.americancanoe.org/Collegiate_Nationals).

INTERNATIONAL



竞舟体育



ACA cultivates paddlesports outreach in China

By Chris Stec, ACA Chief Operating Officer

Seven years ago, through the work of Dave Burden, the ACA's international paddlesport ambassador, the first ACA-sanctioned club in China was opened on Fuyang Island. Several of the Coastlines Kayak Club staff received the ACA Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring Assessment. Coastlines co-founder David Chen continues to support the ACA's outreach in China.



Chris Stec, chief operating officer for the ACA, (far left) and Dave Burden, the ACA's International Paddlesports Ambassador, (far right) present Level 2: Essentials of Kayak Touring Assessment certificates to Coastlines Kayak Club staff members.

Over the past several years, multiple ACA Instructors, Instructor Trainers and Instructor Trainer Educators have had the opportunity to teach a wide variety of Assessment courses and Instructor Certification Workshops (ICWs) in China, including:

- Ivan Bartha
- John Browning
- Dave Burden
- Mark Carlson
- Juan Paulo Ceron
- Larry Gioia
- Dave Kessman
- Ben Lawry
- Mike Loom
- John MacDonald
- Christopher Stec

From Level 1: Intro to SUP and Level 3: Coastal Kayaking to Level 4: Whitewater Kayaking and Adaptive Paddling Workshops, multiple ACA-certified Instructors are now teaching across China. In addition, more than 100 ACA assessments have been awarded over the past few years.



Partnership

On May 19, 2017, the ACA entered a partnership with Zhejiang University. After series of meetings, a signing ceremony took place at the International Paddlesports Summit in Hangzhou in conjunction with the 120th anniversary of the university.

Zhejiang University is a [national university](#) in [China](#). Founded in 1897, Zhejiang University is one of China's oldest, most selective and most prestigious institutions of higher education. It is a member of the [C9 League](#), the [Yangtze Delta Universities Alliance](#) and the [Association of Pacific Rim Universities](#).



ACA COO Chris Stec signs an agreement to enter a partnership with China's Zhejiang University.

The following is an excerpt from the Strategic Partnership Agreement”:

In order to further the spread and promotion of paddlesports, and to advance the exchange and de-

(Continued on page 56)



velopment of paddlesports between China and the USA, both parties held mutual and friendly consultation. By utilizing Zhejiang University's hundred-year old educational influence, and American Canoe Association's expertise in paddlesports, on the basis of the principles of "resource sharing", "complementary advantages", "emphasis on practical results", "win-win cooperation", both Parties have agreed to establish a stable and sustainable long-term partnership, and reached the following strategic partnership mutual understandings:

- Establish strategic partnership with the aim to keep it for the long term.
- Launch educational and instructional cooperation, ACA will assist Zhejiang University in establishing paddlesports curricula, the ACA will give its authorization to Zhejiang University to carry out ACA's existing paddlesports educational and instructional programs and establish an ACA-accredited education and instruction headquarters on the University's premises.
- Both Parties will provide each other with favorable conditions and treatment, forge a new developmental advantage, and work together to promote paddlesports in China's schools.

We would like to thank Ge Wu, ACA instructor and teacher at Zhejiang University, for his continued assistance throughout this process. In addition, we have been working with former Chinese National Team member and Sprint World Champion, Ms. Shu Yaping from the University, on this outreach project.

Collegiate Exchange Program

The ACA is very excited to be able to provide an invitation to U.S. colleges and universities with a paddlesport program to conduct an exchange program with students and/or faculty with Zhejiang University's paddlesport program.

This is a unique opportunity not only to share our respective ideas on paddlesports, but also to enhance the cultural experience between our two countries.

If your college or university is interested in a paddlesports exchange program, please contact ACA Chief Operating Officer Christopher Stec for additional details.

Club Outreach

The ACA is also committed to supporting the numerous paddling clubs that are arising throughout China.

Fastest growing membership

China's membership numbers in the ACA continue to grow. In January 2017, there were 92 members. By the end of May, that number had grown to 207, giving China has the most members (with Chile coming in second with 86 members).



Chris Stec, ACA chief operating officer, poses with Ge Wu, ACA instructor and teacher at Zhejiang University. Wu has been instrumental in establishing the ACA's partnership with the Chinese university.



quality of their programs by participating in ACA instructional programs.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, the ACA will be setting up a Chinese website and payment platforms on AliPay and WeChat.

We will continue to increase the translation (our Instructor Manual is currently in Mandarin) of relevant ACA documents and course criteria.

In addition, we are considering potential staffing options based in China.

Special Thanks

The ACA would also like to thank Dave Burden and Ivan Bartha for the significant amount of time, energy and guidance that they have provided in regard to the ACA's growth in China.

For more information, please visit www.americancanoe.org/China.

From offering Instructor Certification Workshops and Assessment Courses for clubs to special benefits to be found on the ACA's soon-to-be-launched Chinese website, we realize the important role that paddling clubs are playing in growing various aspects of paddlesports throughout China.

We would like to thank the team at Zhouji Kayak Club as well as all the other paddling clubs that have already invested time and energy in enhancing the



Fearless Formosa

A sea kayaking *adventure* in Taiwan

Story and photos by Laura Zulliger

Laura Zulliger and Kelly Marie Henry at the end of their journey around Taiwan.

In the spring of 2016, I texted my friend and fellow ACA sea kayaking instructor Kelly Marie Henry, and half-joking I asked if she wanted to paddle around Taiwan with me. I never dreamed Kelly would say “yes” but, as luck would have it, she did!

The next week, we dove into planning the adventure of a lifetime. With a generous grant from the ACA, a Hobkey adventure grant, plus support from Point 65 Sweden and Kokatat, we were able to make our dream a reality.

Fast forward one year, Kelly and I returned from our adventure stronger, saltier, and completely blown away by the people and coastline of Taiwan. Not only were we able to kayak over 200 miles of the stunningly beautiful east coast, but we also partnered with the amazing Formosa Kayak School to teach a series of sea kayaking classes in both English and Mandarin.

As we taught and traveled, many asked us, “why Taiwan?” Here are the main reasons we chose to paddle the east coast of Taiwan and why we think you should too

It has otherworldly beauty.

Surrounding one island, you can paddle lush, rural coastlines with



Kelly paddling along the Qingshui Cliffs.

crystalline blue water, explore sauna-like sea caves heated by underwater hot springs, surf hidden breaks, and rock garden in rolling swell and ancient coral beds. Taiwan offers exceptional paddling diversity in a relatively concentrated area.

A few places not to miss on Taiwan’s amazing east coast include Kenting National Park and its untouched beauty abounding with sea turtles and flying fish. The rock gardens around the Sanxiantai Bridge, Shitiping, and Nanfang’ao are amazing to explore. And no trip to Taiwan

is complete without a visit to the dramatic coastline along the Qingshui Cliffs.

Taiwan takes hospitality to a new level.

During the 20 days Kelly and I paddled and camped along small villages and harbors, we always felt welcomed and safe. When landing in a new town, we frequently were met by a group of new fans wanting to pose for photos with us and ask about our journey. Some mornings, we would draw an even larger crowd to pose for more pictures and to wish us safe travels.

The beautiful beach and surf spot of Jinzun is popular among the growing population of kayakers in Taiwan.



The generosity of new friends repeatedly floored us. From joining us to paddle sections the coastline, shuttling us over seven hours south to Kenting to begin our trip, treating us to endless meals, providing us homes to stay in – everywhere we went we experienced extreme hospitality.

The island's kayaking culture is growing.

After decades of restricted coastal access, many Taiwanese now seek to explore and learn their waterways by kayak. Several of our students shared stories of growing up learning to fear the ocean, not realizing they could legally access the coast until the early 2000s. Our base for

classes, Nanfang'ao, is growing into a local watersports epicenter with sea kayaking, SUP, and kitesurfing schools helping thousands of Taiwanese explore their island home by water.* One meaningful aspect of teaching was understanding this complicated history with coastal access and seeing firsthand how much Taiwanese paddlers cherish the opportunity to kayak and experience their coast from a different lens.

The coaches who run Formosa Kayaking School (FKS), JahFong Chen and Yali Huang, are both ACA instructors working to expand and advance sea kayaking in Taiwan. Since launching FKS, they have hosted several international coaches and IDW/ICEs in addition to introducing thousands to kayaking throughout the year. Their incredible support of our classes and expedition made our time in Taiwan possible.

Kelly and I are extremely grateful for the opportunity to paddle and teach in Taiwan. So much so that we plan on returning to paddle in Taiwan next year.



Jahfong Chen, Yali Huang, Kelly Marie Henry, and Laura Zulliger at Wushi Harbor.

New friends from Taidong's OceanWay hostel send off Laura and Kelly at 5:30 a.m.



*For locals and foreigners wanting to kayak, several schools and clubs offer a range of classes all over the island in addition to boat and great rentals. (See our website for a full list of schools and clubs: fearlessfomrosa.com).

Argentina A paddler's paradise

Submitted by Martin G Moreno
Argentina Rafting Expediciones

In the Carolina Province of San Luis, Argentina, a fisher friend and a kayaker sent us a picture of a serie of really interesting drops in Rio Grande, that is how we, Matías López and Silvio Gallo, left to do our first descent.



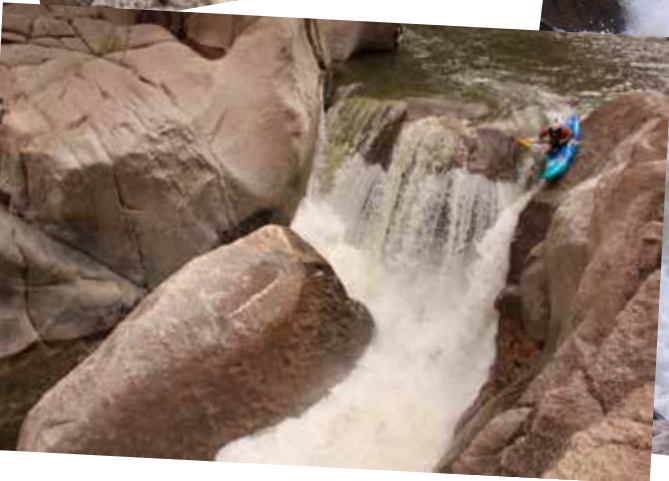
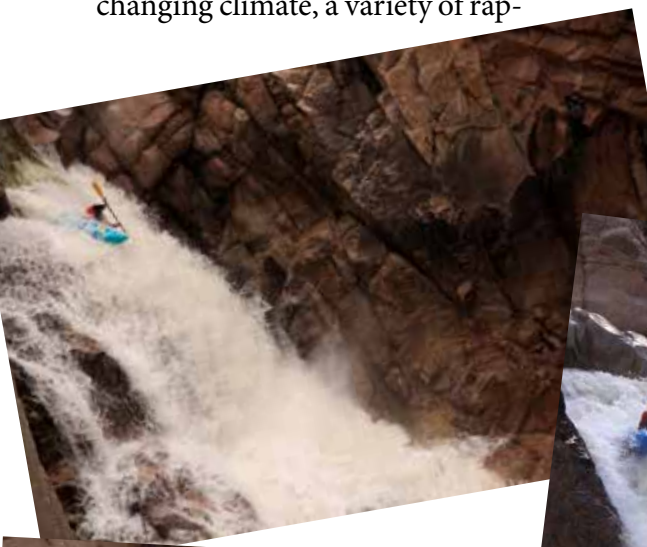
The Valley of Pancanta, in one of its easy access sections and hard exit out the canon, the paddling enthusiasts traveled 30 miles in nine hours – something we'd thought of doing in two days. We found a changing climate, a variety of rap-

ids with a lot of slopes, incredible cascades and – because of the water level that day – some portages. This river counts with little water all year long but with a little rain it can reach impressive levels.

chose to run the biggest one. I went back with Lucas Carena, Cristian Brega and Santiago Muñoz only a few days later to run that part that is five miles from the put-in. After doing five drops along 500 meters, we left – walking two hours to the single closest point of the way.

Two days later, we went back with a lower water level, this time taking Robert Derias to do the portages. We had time to run only one and

With a resemblance to the Californian style, in this area we could observe a great quantity of rivers and currents with excellent conditions for future expeditions. Making it a possible paradise of kayaking.





Kayaking with iguanas in Puerto Rico

By Kyle Thomas, ACA - North Carolina Director

The kayak is such an inspiring catalyst of exploration in my life. A kayak has transported me through numerous once-in-a-lifetime experiences including traversing mesmerizing sea caves off the Isle of Skye in Scotland, paddling with porpoises around Tybee Island in Georgia, and paddling next to an aircraft carrier in Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. I'd like to tell you a story about a recent trip I had on a sit-on-top kayak in Puerto Rico.

While in Puerto Rico for the annual conference of ACA State Directors, I had a wonderful opportunity to explore Lake Loíza with a group of fellow kayakers and SUP paddlers. Prior to the trip, it had been mentioned to me that our group would be doing some "iguana watching" during the trip. Honestly, I understood this comment to be a joke, as I had never heard of anyone "iguana watching" and especially not via kayak. Most wildlife enthusiast kayakers that I knew would pursue bird-watching.

Well...I was wrong. There is such a thing as iguana watching and it provided me with a thrilling memory. As I was paddling along the banks of Lake Loíza, I heard "Hey! Check

this out." A few sweep strokes and forward strokes later and I was staring at a tall tree. I am not a dendrologist (science of wood plants) and I couldn't figure out what the hype was all about. Then I saw it. A big it. Perched on a branch of the tree behind some foliage was a very large iguana.

Several photographs later and our group was back on the move. A short moment later, from across the water someone exclaims, "Here! Here!" I was starting to jump to conclusions but I navigated across the water to rendezvous with the excited paddler. I quickly glanced at the tree limbs and gazed at another large iguana in clear view. And a few feet above it was ANOTHER iguana!

Then a special moment happened. I gave into the hype and actively sought to find reptiles lurching in

the trees. I honored Principle 6 of Leave No Trace (Respect Wildlife) by doing my best to maintain distance and to not disturb any wildlife. Until a lizard climbed aboard my sit-on-top kayak and perched



on my life jacket. This little dude was excited to try out kayaking, so I (hopefully) provided the lizard a thrilling journey from the crow's nest (my shoulder) and placed him back on dry land, safe and sound.

Kayaking has had such an incredible influence on my life and the way I interact with nature. Iguana watching in Puerto Rico is a memory that I'll reflect on for years to come. I hope that if any of you find yourself in Puerto Rico, that you'll hop in a kayak and say hello to my iguana friends.



Make your plans now



Europe Paddlesports Symposium

October 27-29, 2017
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland

The eighth annual [ACA Europe Paddlesports Symposium](http://www.americancanoe.org/EuropePaddlesportsSymposium) will be held on Lake Constance in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, October 27-29, 2017.

For full details, please visit www.americancanoe.org/EuropePaddlesportsSymposium.

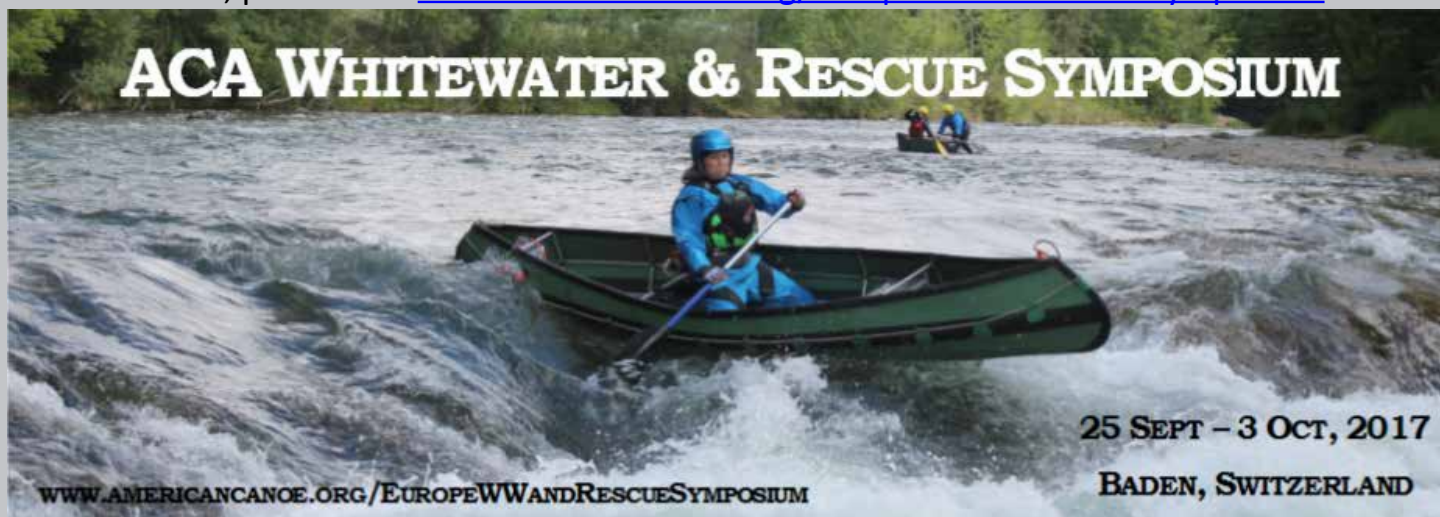
ACA's first

Whitewater & Rescue Symposium

September 25-October 3, 2017
Baden, Switzerland

The ACA's inaugural [Whitewater & Rescue Symposium](http://www.americancanoe.org/EuropeWWandRescueSymposium) is being held September 25-October 3, 2017, in Baden, Switzerland. In addition, numerous ACA Whitewater & Rescue Instructor Certification Workshops will be offered prior to and after the symposium.

For full details, please visit www.americancanoe.org/EuropeWWandRescueSymposium.



Paddling History

J.H. (John Henry) Rushton began building boats in 1875 in Canton, New York. He quickly became well known for his very lightweight skiffs and canoes. In 1880, he was one of 23 men to accept a formal invitation from N.H. Bishop “to perfect the organization of the American Canoe Association,” thereby becoming one of the organization’s founders.



The upper photo shows Rushton in his prime. The lower photo is believed to be Rushton in one of his highly acclaimed canoes.



*Each issue, we’ll bring you an interesting paddling photo from the ACA archives.
We hope you enjoy these little glimpses of paddling history.*

To learn more about ACA history and the early days of paddlesports, visit:

www.americancanoe.org/History.

*Making the World a Better Place to Paddle!
Since 1880.*



www.americancanoe.org

